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The PC Chronicle

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Monday, May 3, 1999

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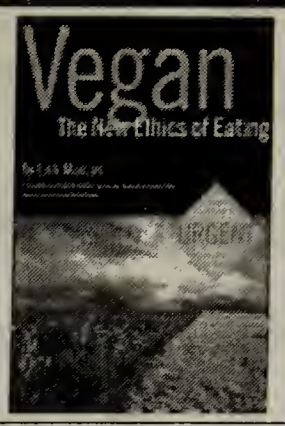


SGA elections ruled invalid

MARTI TRGOVICH
Managing Editor

Some members of the Student Government Association believe their rights as students have been violated by the university.

Three members will appeal a decision by the administration that elections held in the SFLC on April 19-21 and 26 are invalid.

New elections will be held Wednesday and Thursday in the SFLC concourse from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m. For the first time, students will enter their votes in to a computer, rather than write their choices on a piece of paper. Staff from the Office of Student Leadership Development will man the tables without the aid of SGA representatives.

SGA members Jaime Cavazos, vice president of finance; Amy Croston, president; and Lorrell Kilpatrick, president pro-tem; have contacted the Campus Appeals Board, headed by chairman Ralph Ocon, to arrange for a hearing, in order to protest the new elections.

Michelle Verduzo, director of Student Leadership Development, who often advises SGA members, though she is not their formal adviser, said the previous elections were not held at the correct times, and the votes were not tabulated in the presence of an administrator.

"The votes were opened and tabulated without any advisory personnel," she said.

Leo Bryant, official SGA adviser, vice chancellor for student services and dean of students, agreed that the first elections were invalid. He declined, however, to discuss specifics,

See Elections, Page 3

Photo by Marti Trgovich

SGA members Jaime Cavazos and Amy Croston assist Lorrell Kilpatrick as she calls Ralph Ocon, chairman of the Campus Appeals Board. The members claim that the administration has violated their rights as students.

Kimbrell alleges Robles broke rules

MARTI TRGOVICH
Managing Editor

Though junior Bruce Kimbrell was the only candidate on SGA's ballot for 1999-2000 president, he did not win.

Write-in candidate, junior Joe Robles, won with 18 percent more votes than Kimbrell.

Robles, however, will not be president.

University officials have deemed those elections invalid, and will hold administration run elections Wednesday and Thursday.

Among the allegations by officials are that the SGA did not hold their elections at the scheduled times, and the votes were not tabulated in front of an administrator or adviser.

Joe Robles

But the reasons go deeper than that.

For one, Kimbrell is alleging that Robles campaigned at the election table, asking students to write in his name for president.

Candidates are allowed to campaign in the SFLC lobby, where the elections are held, but are not allowed to sit at or stand by the tables and ask students to vote for them.

"I've had five phone calls in the last two days, saying they (SGA) are being corrupt," Kimbrell said Wednesday, adding that his friends had told

See Robles, Page 3

Mock Trial

Photo by Marti Trgovich

Twelve criminal justice students served as jurors for the Criminal Justice Club's mock trial on April 26 in Alumni Hall. Here, jurors listen to student Jocelyn Vanderhook as she plays Melissa Haynes.

Class hits dirt for assignment

KELLY CREVISTON
Production Manager

Much like a kaleidoscope twists and turns an object, showing its many different shapes and colors, Matthew Ryan, a professor in inorganic chemistry, uses a similar method in his classroom.

Ryan, along with Professors Cliff Chancey and Barbara Mania-Farnell, are members of a national alliance known as Project Kaleidoscope, a program dedicated to strengthening undergraduate science, mathematics, engineering and technology education. Using personal computers, teamwork, and eliminating lectures are ways this goal is achieved.

"One way we can attack this in science is by getting students involved in real world activities to apply what they are doing in class," Chancey said.

Ryan recently practiced this concept in his General Chemistry class. On April 27, the class collected soil south of the Riley Child Care Center and tested the samples for lead content. Because this area is adjacent to the Borman Expressway, the class believed that there may be significant levels of lead content in the soil. The results of the lab showed safe levels of lead and found the area to be 10,000 times lower than the toxic

See Kaleidoscope, Page 3

Outstanding students receive awards at 26th annual banquet

LAUREN MATHEWS
Editor-in-Chief

Students, faculty and administrators gathered last weekend to formally honor and award the outstanding students of our campus.

Several individuals were recognized for their efforts academically and socially at the 26th Annual Student Awards Banquet.

Joe Robles, who is executive secretary of SGA, second vice president of Los Latinos, president of Campus Ministry International, as well as a member in several other student organizations, was awarded Outstanding Student Leader. To be nominated for the leader award, in accordance with Student Leadership guidelines, a student must be an active member of at least one organization with a classification of three or higher and a GPA of 2.0 or higher. Student organizations then cast their vote for the outstanding student and the student that receives the most votes receives the award.

The selection process for Most Active Student Organization is similar. Organizations are nominated depending on how active that organization is, and how its events have benefited the campus and community. The award went to Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, who raised approximately $3000 for the March of Dimes Walk America, volunteered time to rebuild a battered women and children's center in Gary and spoke to Lew Wallace High School students about college and careers.

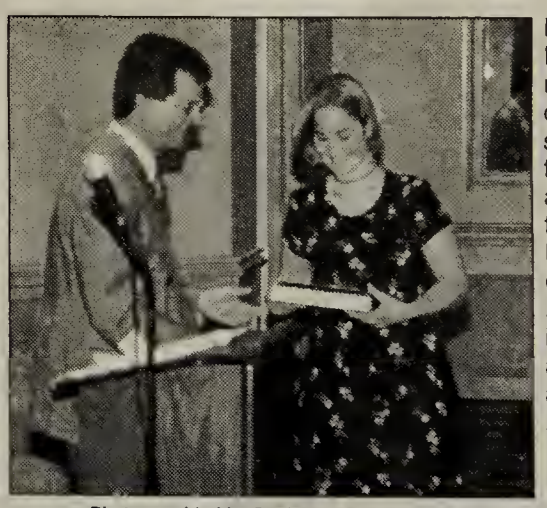


Photo provided by Student Leadership Development

Mary Ellen Passarelli receives the outstanding senior award for chemistry and physics from Dan Dunn, acting dean of Engineering, Mathematics and Science at the Student Awards Banquet April 23.

Several seniors were awarded by their department for their academic achievement. In the School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, outstanding seniors were Jason P. Sarkey, biological sciences; Mary Ellen Passarelli and Janet Marie Walker, chemistry and physics; Christopher Moffat, engineering; and Dana Seifert, mathematics, computer science and statistics.

Guidelines for choosing outstanding seniors are GPA of 3.0 or above, graduating senior in 1999, and their extra-curricular activities on or off campus.

For the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, outstanding seniors were Mary Frances Toporek, behavioral sciences; Joshua S. Hogg, communication and creative arts; Melissa Ann Stoltzfus, English and philosophy; Consuelo Reardon, foreign languages and literatures; Jelena Sesar, history and political science. The School of Professional Programs awarded Amy Croston, education and Lori McBride, nursing.

See Awards, Page 3

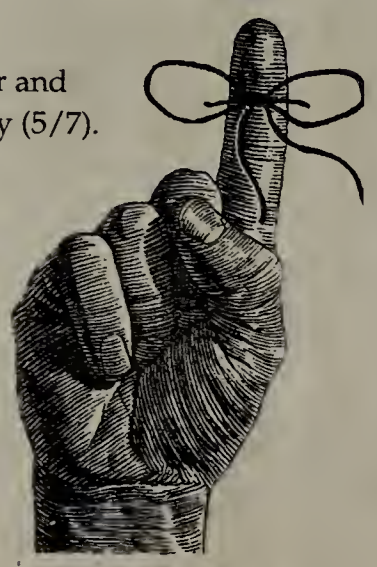
Final exams will be Monday, May 10 through Sunday, May 16.

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Reminders, information & clarifications

Entering this, the final week of classes, before final exams next week, please note the following:

The early bird....



• Early Registration for summer and fall classes ends at 4 p.m., Friday (5/7). Otherwise, for summer classes, you'll have to wait to register until the June 9-10 Open Registration period. (The summer session officially begins Monday, June 14).

For fall classes, a second phase of early registration begins July 6. The first day of semester classes is Thursday, Aug. 26.

Need information? Go to SFLC 305

The latest phase of campus infrastructure improvement and renovation has begun in the Student Faculty Library Center. A second doorway is being developed at the building's south end, soon to be followed by the creation of an adjacent, circular drive-way as a means for vehicular drop-off and pick-up of individuals.

To accommodate construction of a centralized building elevator, the Information Center, formerly located on the first floor, has been moved temporarily upstairs to Room 305. By June 1, the Information Center is scheduled to be back on the first floor in permanent quarters—in Room 125—next to the Purdue Employees Federal Credit Union Calumet Branch area.

Construction also is underway on the expansion of the cafeteria at the northeast corner of the building.

Finally, to clarify...

So there is no misunderstanding,...contrary to the opinion expressed in last week's (4/26) Chronicle editorial, the safety of individuals on our campus is, has and always be the administration's primary consideration in our response to bomb and any other threats that may be directed at our campus.

While our response to each threat may vary, each decision of response is made from the perspective of our acting in accordance with the greatest care and concern for our campus and people.

So as not to hamper the ongoing investigation of our University Police, we will not divulge here the rationale for determining how we respond to bomb threats. Suffice to say, we do not, nor would we put lives in potential danger.

At a glance

around campus

Psychology honor society induction

Eleven students were inducted into the PUC chapter of Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology, March 27 in a ceremony conducted by chapter president Becky Erenberg and other officers. The students inducted were: Marcus T. LaSota, Theresa Russell, LaKeshia T. Comer, Sandra Moran, Jazaer H. Fouad-Farrar, Linda Lesson, Carol M. Allen, Angel Jez, Linda S. Pitcher, Rachel Mestrovich and Penny J. Wilson-O'Neal. Dr. David Pick, PUC behavioral science department, presented the opening remarks. The purpose of the organization is to encourage, stimulate and maintain excellence in scholarship and to advance the science of psychology. the faculty adviser for Psi Chi is Dr. Anne Edwards.

Pride Alliance meeting

Pride Alliance, formerly known as GLBT Student Network, will meet at 9:00 a.m. Friday, May 7, in SFLC-317. Everyone is welcome.

Grant available to humanities graduate student

Students who will be degree-seeking PUC graduate students in the humanities during the 1999-2000 academic year may now submit applications for the John S. Tucker Graduate Research Award to Marcia Gordon in LAWS-308. The award of approximately $1,500 may be applied to research expenses. Applications should include a letter of application, a project proposal, a short biographical sketch, two letters of recommendation attesting to the significance of the project, a proposed budget and the name of the faculty adviser who will direct the applicant's research. The application deadline is July 1. The recipient will be notified by August 15. For more information, call Gordon at Ext. 2257.

Three grants available for graduate students

Students who will be degree-seeking PUC graduate students in any graduate degree program in either the fall 1999 or the spring 2000 semester may now submit applications for research grants to Marcia Gordon in LAWS-308. Applications should include a letter of application, a project proposal, a short biographical sketch, two letters of recommendation attesting to the significance of the project and the name of the faculty adviser who will direct the applicant's research. The three awards of $750 each may be applied to research expenses. The application deadline in July 1. Recipients will be notified by August 15. For more information, call Gordon at Ext. 2257.

Bicycling club opportunities

The Calumet Crank Club is gearing up for its 18th season of bicycling and is looking for new members interested in riding for recreation or for fitness. The major rides are on weekends at various locations throughout northwest Indiana and feature some of the area's prettiest countryside and lake views. Recent weekend rides include: Westville to Kingsford Heights (34 miles), Chesterton to Washington Twp. (35 miles) and Lakeshore Visitors Center to New Buffalo (40 miles). Rides are also held throughout the week at various locations and distances. For more information, visit www.bicycling.org, e-mail tfairbairn@compuserve.com or call (219) 923-6691 or (219) 762-2208.

Drop-in center opens

The Engineering, Math and Science Mentoring Drop-in Center in GYTE-148, Ext. 2468, is now open.

Salvation Army seeks volunteers

The Hammond/Munster Corps of the Salvation Army at 8225 Columbia Ave. is seeking volunteers for its social services, feeding, food distribution, youth, senior citizens and emergency disaster programs. For more information, call Shirley Fehring at (219) 923-0574.

Sports editor needed

The Chronicle is looking for a sports editor. If interested, contact Marti or Lauren at the Chronicle office located on the third floor of SFLC, room 344-H, or call the office at 989-2547. The Chronicle is also taking applications for the following departments: production, business, web design, writing, advertising, photography, human rescources, and promotions.

Quote of the week

'To understand another human being you must gain some insight into the conditions which made him what he is.'

- Margaret Bourke-White
1904-1971

The Chronicle

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Elections

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citing the confidentiality of the organization as the most important factor.

Croston said that the tabulations by SGA members were not an "official count," but Verduzco said that was an insignificant fact.

> **"The administration is not allowed to run (the voting). What they're doing is illegal"**
> Lorrell Kilpatrick, SGA president pro-tem

Under "Section 3: Elections," the SGA Constitution says that the Senate should appoint a committee in February to "...count the ballots under supervision of an adviser..."

Elections were scheduled to take place April 19-21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.

There was, however, no one working the tables in the SFLC concourse on April 19 until 5 p.m.

Croston admits that tables were not always opened for voting as scheduled. She said she had called the Office of the Registrar on April 16 and asked to have the list of almost 9,000 students – a list necessary in order to keep track of student voters – ready by 10 a.m. on April 19.

"They were not ready (April 19) Monday morning," Croston said.

She said that on Wednesday, April 21, the tables were not open from 5 to 7 p.m. because the election materials were locked in the Information Center on the first floor of the SFLC.

"We lost six hours of what was supposed to be election time," Croston said. She added that's why the Senate agreed, and the election committee approved for elections to be extended to April 26. The election committee consists of four SGA members who are not running for re-election: Cavazos, Croston, and Senators Hector Garcia and Chuck Lewis.

Garcia declined to comment on any aspect of the situation.

Croston said that it is against the SGA's Constitution to hold the elections in May. The Constitution states that elections will take place during the month of April.

Verduzco, however, said that there is no other choice, explaining that she wants a "valid election" for the organization. She added that the first election is still under investigation.

Bryant also said there was no option but to hold another election. "As a university, we feel we're doing what's proper," he said.

According to PUC's Student Bill of Rights, the Campus Appeals Board will "make findings and submit recommendations" to Chancellor James Yackel.

Ocon said that although Kilpatrick had contacted him on Thursday by telephone, he needed to have a statement in writing. But even then, he's not sure if he can help since the board usually handles disciplinary matters.

"I'm not actually sure if our committee is the right forum for their complaint," he said.

The board would be made up of three faculty members, three individual students, and three SGA members. Ocon was not sure who would take the place of the SGA members, or if that would be necessary, if the appeal went through.

Kilpatrick had underlined a passage in the Bill of Rights on Thursday that stated, "Hearings at which individual students, as well as representatives of student government and student organizations can present oral or written statements as effective input to University deliberations shall be scheduled and publicized."

Cavazos, Croston and Kilpatrick claim they were not granted the opportunity to give statements about the new elections at a meeting they had Tuesday with Bryant, Verduzco and Yackel.

"We got steamrolled by Dr. Leo Bryant and Michelle Verduzco," Croston said. "They confronted us and attacked our integrity. They have taken everything out of our hands."

According to Verduzco, the three members said they did not want a part in the May elections.

"They very explicitly said they wanted nothing to do with it," she said.

"They were not steamrolled," Bryant said. "We would continue to discuss it with them as long as they want to talk about it. They made suggestions. Those suggestions were considered."

Kilpatrick said the entire SGA should have had a chance to meet with the three administrators; Verduzco said the rest of the SGA could have been there if they had liked.

She said that there is no other option, rather than to hold another election.

"The administration is not allowed to run (the voting)," Kilpatrick said. "What they're doing is illegal."

Croston does not have high hopes for the outcome of their appeal. "This (new election) is already going to be over with because of who they are, they are able to rush things along very quickly."

Kilpatrick, nevertheless, hopes to have an appeal date set before

Robles

Continued from page 1

him that Robles was campaigning at the table.

"I'm not saying there's anything wrong with him being written in," Kimbrell said. "He is running and sitting at the table."

Robles denies the allegations. He admits that he was in the lobby campaigning; he says, however, that he was at least one table's length away from the election table. Robles said he asked for votes for vice president of finance. Once he found out that people were writing his name in for president, he told prospective voters that they may write his name in, "if you wish to," he said.

"I was surprised Bruce wasn't down there...because he was aware that people were writing me in," Robles said.

Though Robles won the first election, for this election he declined to collect the required 100 student signatures to be put on the ballot.

Robles said he would have accepted his first victory, had it been deemed valid.

Bruce Kimbrell

Leo Bryant

"I ran for vice president of finance, but if people want me to be president, then I won't argue," he had told The Chronicle Tuesday before the new elections were announced. "It's the voice of the people."

Robles, however, said he would not run for president in the new elections, believing they suggest an element of wrongdoing on the part of the election committee. He believes that the first elections were valid, and running as president in the new elections would be an admittance of some wrongdoing by the SGA.

Robles added that elections should be held in April, per the Constitution. "I'll stay on (the ballot) as vice president of finance, but to my moral conscience, I will not recognize these elections taking place."

Michelle Verduzco, director of Student Leadership Development, said that the first election is still under investigation.

Leo Bryant, official SGA adviser, dean of students, and vice chancellor for student services, said this is the first time since in his nine years on campus that an election has been ruled invalid.

Despite Robles' and president Amy Croston's claim that Robles' win is the "voice of the people," Verduzco said that isn't so.

"That's not the voice of the people," Verduzco said, explaining that he received less than 100 votes.

Despite the low count, it was the most votes that anyone running had received this year.

Once the new elections were announced, a new candidate opted to run for president. Michael D. "Stew" Stewart, a junior radio/TV major, will run against Kimbrell.

Lorrell Kilpatrick, president protem, said that raises another problem. Since there are two candidates for the presidency now, "There has to be a presidential debate," she said

Awards

Continued from page 1

The School of Technology awarded Tom Jacobs, construction technology; Robert Avgerinos, electrical engineering technology; Matthew Marcotte, information systems and computer programming; Gary A. Hays and Joelle M. Hillebold, manufacturing engineering technologies and supervision.

Other awarded students included Bandar Al-Yousef, Robert Avgerinos, Kevin Douglas and David Wisinski for the William Edwin Murrel Award. Cynthia Lyles and Amy Sprengelmeyer won the Shirley Staton Award. Who's Who Among Students in American Universities went to Diana Marie Borom, Bryon R. Kawa, Mary Kristin Seymour and Kristy Ann Verduzco.

Only two student organizations presented awards. The Chronicle awarded Kim Kintz and Michael D. Stewart as Staff Employees of 1998. Daren Samplawski was given an award for Excellence in Reporting; Amy Aurelio received the award for Most Improved Production Assistant and was announced as the new features editor. Joan Musak won the Silver Award and was announced as the new production manager. Lauren Mathews won the Gold Award. The Chronicle also announced Marti Trgovich as the recipient of the Indiana Collegiate Press Association second place award for Best Features Page, Ted Calvin for third place Best Features Photo from the ICPA, and the first place award for Best Front Page Design from the Associated Collegiate Press.

Student Government Association awarded Amy Croston for Service; Lorrell Kilpatrick as Outstanding Senator and gave two merit scholarships in the amount of $350 to students Scott Withrow and Michelle Peak..

Kaleidoscope

Continued from page 1

level.

Although these results were positive, Ryan says that this is still an issue that should be given attention.

"The potential dangers of lead have not gone away. The lead that was used in the past is still present in the air, soil and water today," he said.

Besides being near the expressway, the child care center was a prime location to test for lead content. According to The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, children are the most vulnerable segments of society for exposures to lead. About 5.7 to 11.7 million children are potentially exposed to lead contained in soil and dust, according to the agency's figures.

Ryan wants his students to take home these kinds of serious effects.

"I want them to think about it," he said. "This is still something they should be concerned about.

"Sometimes we miss the need to teach students broader than understanding lectures. I want my students to take what we learn and apply it," Ryan said.

Sophomore Stacy Snyder, a student in the class, said that this lab helped her learn more about chemistry than staying in the classroom.

"It was neat to test something people are concerned about. I like how he always applies everything to real world examples," she said.

This is not the only example of how PUC professors are applying PKAL. Starting next semester, two new general science classes, Intro to Physical Sciences I and II, will be offered. The aim of these courses is to teach students using non-traditional methods of teaching. Chancey received the idea for the class from a national PKAL meeting.

"Neither course uses a lecture format," he said. "Instead students learn by doing a number of discovery activities in which they have to study and analyze processes in nature."

The class discussions before and after the activities will highlight what the class observed. Chancey said that studies have shown most students don't learn from listening to lectures and that is why Project Kaleidoscope faculty have decided to make science a process of discovering new knowledge about the natural world.

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★ Graduate of Hammond Schools
★ Master's Degree in Communication and Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations, Purdue University Calumet
★ Staff member, Purdue University Calumet
★ Precinct Committeeperson, Hammond Democratic Central Committee
★ Member, St. John Bosco Church
★ Homeowner: Taxpayer
★ Active Volunteer in Community Organizations

Kathleen PUCALIK

Hammond
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★ Street, alley, and sewer improvements
★ Assuring residents that revenue generated from riverboat gaming is distributed fairly throughout the city
★ Drawing new business to Hammond for economic development
★ Pursuing purchase of leaf vacuum vehicles and alley snowplows
You Make a Difference! VOTE! Tuesday, May 4

The Chronicle
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Christopher Kosovich, *Human Resources*
Joan Musak, *Assistant Production Manager*

SGA has 'hit rock bottom,' with help from the university

Student Government Association's vice president of finance summed up their performance this semester when he addressed the audience at the student awards banquet last week—student government has hit rock bottom and sometimes even started to dig.

This most SGA election fiasco is the most students have heard from them all semester, however, they alone cannot carry the blame for their downward spiral.

As stated in the student organization resource manual, all student organizations must have a faculty adviser. Faculty advisers are "the link between the university and the organization." Advisers are not to act as police for the organization, but mentors and friends offering advice and support when problems occur. Advisers help the group achieve a goal, and since SGA has not reached some of its goals this semester, such as completing a student survey for use of SSF funds, and now, the annual elections were deemed invalid, it can only mean one thing. They are lacking the help of an adviser; their adviser being the Dean of Students. There obviously has been no coaching, and for this, SGA cannot solely bear the burden of a poor semester.

SGA essentially has the power to accomplish any goal they set to help the student body, however, they have not been given goal accomplishing tools, tools which are provided by the administration, specifically, the adviser. We cannot realistically expect the members of SGA to be campus leaders when they lack vision and direction, and have had no assistance setting or reaching goals. However, SGA members must realize that there have been a series of inconsistencies that have led to this lack of leadership. Taking responsibility for these inconsistencies is what SGA members need to do, because that's what leaders do, they realize and they act. Leaders don't pick parts of an issue just to benefit them while ignoring others, they face the entire thing and resolve it.

On the other side though, advisers and administrators can't expect SGA members to be headstrong, enabled participants in the campus life without some help from people who have been there.

Ultimately, this election debacle could have been prevented if the right steps would have occurred long ago. The adviser should have made sure that the election committee was beginning its duties in February like the SGA constitution states, instead of in April, and the members of SGA should have made sure they were keeping with a schedule and asking for help when things fell behind in order to make sure all things were accomplished on schedule.

One of the biggest problems that led to this election nightmare is not only lack of leadership and responsibility on two parts, but also the internal training of SGA. They are training themselves to self-destruct and unless someone steps in, SGA may eat itself alive.

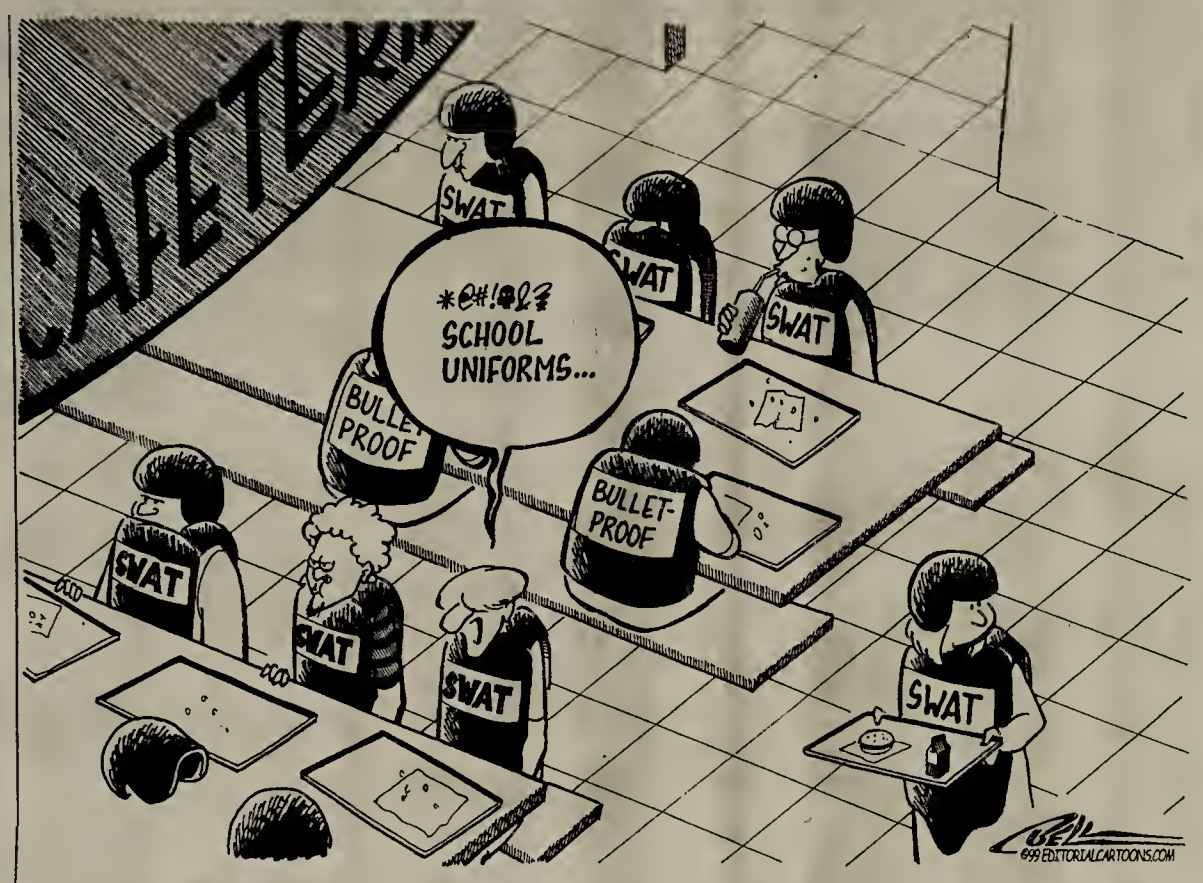
~To avoid conflict of interest, presidential candidate Michael D. Stewart did not participate in this editorial.

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in the commentaries and Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Chronicle* or Purdue University Calumet. *The Chronicle* is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet.

The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the author's name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters and commentaries will be considered for publication only if accompanied with the aforementioned specifications.

All materials submitted to *The Chronicle* become the property of *The Chronicle*. All material must be typed (double spaced) or saved on a 3.5" DOS format disk. *The Chronicle* reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Copy deadline is 9 a.m. the Monday before publication.



Kevorkian deaths prove less painful

RICK PEREGOY
Staff Writer

The prudish religious people of America are calling Jack Kevorkian a quack; he's not a serial killer. His ideas suggest that he's humane and understands that people don't have to undergo intense pathological suffering.

We 'humanely' euthanize pets because it is 'the right thing to do.' But allow humans to suffer because of religious beliefs that say it's wrong. How ironic in light of the facts that throughout the years, religion has killed more people than old age. In the past 20 years alone, 800,000 have been killed in Rwanda; 250,000 in Bosnia; 200,000 in Burundi; 150,000 in Liberia; and nearly 100,000 in Chechnya. How can religion dictate that Kevorkian is some kind of quack—It was only about 25 generations ago that Catholics were deciding that the only way to get rid of their many bodily sores was to bathe in the blood of innocent children.

In mid-April, I had to take my cat of eight years to be put to sleep. It was difficult to do, but how can we realize that this is a humane thing to do for animals but at the same time, let religion dictate that for human beings we are "playing God."

Ten years ago I watched in horror as my mother died of lung cancer. The doctors had overradiated her and her lungs slowly filled up with blood. She looked like a fish out of water, but to hear it from the doctors, there was nothing that they could do. I begged them to at least knock her completely out—to no avail. She had absolutely no chance of making it through the night but had to suffer through a three hour death.

If you ask me, Kevorkian is not the quack, rather, it is religion and the people who allow the craziness to continue. A collection of oil paintings by Kevorkian could be considered morbid depicting severed heads, molding skulls, and rotting corpses. In his painting, "A Very Still Life", Kevorkian paints blue flower blossoms coming through the eye socket of a skull with a twisted lower jaw. Another entitled "Coma", he paints bony fingers pulling a bed ridden man into the jaw of a giant skull.

Morbid perhaps, but does that mean what he does is wrong? I'm pretty sure that my mom is a saint somewhere....she just should have became one three hours earlier than she did!

Letter to the Editor

Robles thanks students

I want to thank the student organizations who voted me Most Outstanding Student Leader. I will always be appreciative of this award. Also, I thank everyone for electing me Student Government president - via write-in candidacy. However, due to questions about the validity of the elections, my presidency may not go into effect. It is disappointing that the controversy is surrounded by conflicts between election committee members, an SGA presidential candidate and the administration. The election committee performed the valid elections to the best of their ability, fairly, in good faith, and with integrity. Regardless, I am honored by the students and their organizations' vote of confidence and trust in me. Thank you and God bless.

Joseph Robles

The People Speak

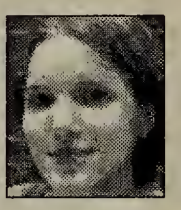
Question of the Week: When you graduate, what will be your most significant memory of PUC?

Bob Delano
junior, math

"Playing basketball on the team and eating lunch with my friends."

Traci Ores
freshman, psychology

"Getting out of here and going to Lafayette."



David Wilken
freshman, architectural technology

"The computer lab always breaking down."

Rodrigo Rodriguez
sophomore, EET

"The wonderful teacher-student relationship."

Dakita Jones
freshman, computer information systems

"The noisy environment, and the amusing individuals around me."

Trinity University hosts robot competition

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

The creators of "The Jetsons" may have predicted microwave ovens and exercise treadmills, but when it came to the all-purpose robot maid Rosie, they were way off the mark. Here we are, spinning toward the millennium, and we're still vacuuming our own floors.

Where are all the robots?

Some are already here. About 90,000 robots are hard at work on America's assembly lines, putting together Ford Explorers, Pentium II chips and Mint Milano cookies.

A handful of robot vocations are impressive indeed: Some scour Chemobyl's nuclear reactor core, others detonate bombs and one robot at Stanford University has performed brain surgery. (Even surgeons, a group not generally known for small egos, admit robot docs are better at some tasks, like precisely placing screws into artificial hips: Robots don't get distracted and their hands don't shake.

Impressive as these machines are, they are not "true robots" - autonomous machines negotiating through the real world. Most are fixed into position to perform rote tasks. The few working robots that move do so by remote control or by following fixed routes.

"Dumb as dirt," Gregory Dudek, a robotics expert at McGill University, says of assembly line robots.

"Plodding dullards," says Hans Moravec, a founder of the eminent robotics program at Camegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

But set robots free to make decisions in the real world - or, the closest most come, robot contests - and see what happens.

At "Robocup," a robot soccer competition last summer in France, contestants wandered the field blindly, mistook opponents for the ball or got hopelessly trapped in comers. Entrants in a flying contest were described as "drunken, airborne food processors."

"Robots are going to be everywhere."
Gregory Dudek, McGill University

And here at Trinity University this week, in what's billed as the world's largest true robot competition, robots took on the role of firefighters, attempting to detect and douse a house fire represented by a candle. Many found themselves careening into walls and sometimes wheeling right into the flames they were meant to extinguish.

It turns out the things we humans find so simple - avoiding walls, crossing uneven floors, finding objects - are the hardest things for a machine to do.

Just ask Deep Blue, the genius computer that scored a coup for the silicon world by beating champion Garry Kasparov at chess: It needed a human assistant to find and move pawns and rooks during the game.

"The reason those things seem so easy is because we're specialized to do them through millions of years of evolution. To think we could match those easily represents tremendous hubris on our part," says Dudek.

Indeed, what Moravec calls the "robot giddiness of the early `80s," when C-3PO was fresh in our minds, gave way to more than a decade of frustration as robot aficionados realized the computer revolution wouldn't easily translate into walking, talking and thinking machines. Frustration echoes through the names of some robot creations: One entry here was called "Migraine." Another: "The Money Pit."

"We knew it would be hard," says Jake Mendelssohn, an early believer in robotics who organized the firefighting robot contest here. "But no one knew it would be this hard."

Yet, the believers still believe. Yes, they say, robots were overhyped. Yes, the performance of early robots was downright embarrassing.

"The quality of soccer play - just pathetic," sighs Moravec. But things are different now, they say. Today's robots are making huge developmental strides. And some are crawling, wheeling and climbing their way out of the lab.

And while many of the firefighting robots competing here were klunky and error-prone, a few were sleek and stealthy, setting about their task like predators and extinguishing fires within seconds.

"I truly believe in a few years firefighting robots will be as common as smoke detectors," says Mendelssohn. Dudek agrees: "Robots are going to be everywhere."

Photo by College Press Exchange

Students show off robots at the world's largest true robot show at Trinity University

Photo by College Press Exchange

Students constructed "true" robots, such as this one, to help make life a little better for everyone.

Civil rights advocates, ACLU sue Rutgers University

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Civil rights advocates accused Rutgers University of violating free speech laws after the school refused to publish an ad questioning Rutgers' commitment to athletics in an alumni magazine.

The American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey sued the university on behalf of a group calling itself Rutgers 1000 - faculty members students and alumni who think the school spends too much money and places too much emphasis on sports.

The group tried to place an ad stating its views in the Rutgers Alumni magazine last fall, but the magazine refused, stating that its policies prohibit political advertising.

Rutgers 1000 has wanted to buy a one-third-page ad captioned "For Rutgers Alumni - A Time To Choose." The ad contained a quote from Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman, a member of the group who said:

"Universities exist to transmit knowledge and understanding of ideas and values to students, not to provide entertainment for spectators or employment for athletes."

The ad asked readers to join the group or send money to support it.

Classifieds

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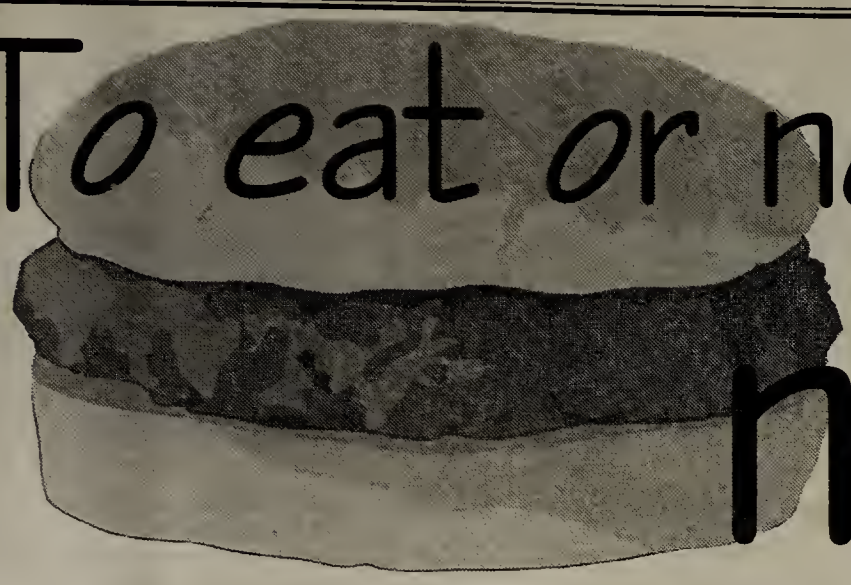


To eat or not to eat.... meat?

Vegetarianism offers college students an alternative

AMY AURELIO
Production Assistant

Imagine standing in line in the cafeteria on campus. The choices for the day's cuisine includes a mysterious "Spam" product covered in a pale yellow substance, undercooked chicken legs, and very unappealing lumps of what is supposed to be meatloaf.

Of course, any college student would stare blankly, wondering how anyone could eat this stuff. Now, imagine if you were a vegetarian or vegan. The ability to maintain a vegetarian diet can be extremely difficult when running from class to class, holding down a part-time or full-time job, and all the while trying to stay healthy and energetic. However, as problematic as it can be, approximately one in 20 Americans is vegetarian, and the number grows daily.

> **"I had to do something different, or I'd have *misgivings about everything that I ate."***
> Writer and vegan Erik Marcus, on why he decided to become a vegetarian while in college.

Vegetarianism is the dietary practice of not consuming meat or poultry. Veganism is a more intense practice of avoiding any and all animal and dairy products, including eggs, cheese, and milk.

Many college students decide to become vegetarians or vegans some time during their collegiate career. Most opt for the lifestyle because of ethical reasons.

Sara Johnsen, a PUC sophomore, gave up meat for Lent in 1994, and tried to maintain a vegetarian diet because she also wanted to support the ethical treatment of animals. But it's not always easy. The ingredients for vegetarian meals are somewhat expensive.

Photo by Amy Aurello

The on-campus organization Students of Compassion are advocates for vegetarianism and animal rights. From left are member Ginger Labelle, and President Lisa Tokarz.

"It's not easy for me to live on Rice Dream and tofu," she said. Johnsen also believes, "If you're serious about it, you definitely have to read up on it."

According to Erik Marcus, author of "Vegan: The New Ethics of Eating," students find that there is a conflict between the belief in not causing suffering to living things, and eating meat.

"Young people, as a broad generalization, tend to be more empathetic towards animals and will take more action to end animal suffering," he said before his presentation April 14 in the SFLC building. Students for Compassion, PUC's on-campus vegetarian advocacy group, asked Marcus to speak about the "vegetarian advantage." Lisa Tokarz, President of Students of Compassion, has been a vegan for three years. By having Marcus offer his advice and point of view, she wanted students to have to opportunity to take advantage of his presentation.

"I think a lot of people don't know about the benefits of vegetarianism and veganism. I just wanted to get the issue out there," said Tokarz. Marcus, a 12 year vegetarian, and a vegan for 11 years, described his own collegiate experience.

"The only vegetarian foods I ate were honey roasted peanuts and Coca Cola," he said, laughing. He had grown up in a household where he and his family ate meat three times a day.

However, during his freshman year at Columbia University in New York, he had been hanging out in a dorm room with two friends who happened to be vegetarians. He was horrified by a video they watched, which was a documentary on slaughterhouses. That video changed his outlook, perhaps forever.

"I had to do something different, or I'd have misgivings about everything I ate," he said. During his presentation, he passionately described the cruel treatment of cows, pigs, and particularly, chickens. It takes one chicken 30 hours to lay one egg, he stated. The rest of the time, Marcus explained, they are locked up in battery cages, and never let out. They spend 24 hours walking and sleeping on a wire, he said.

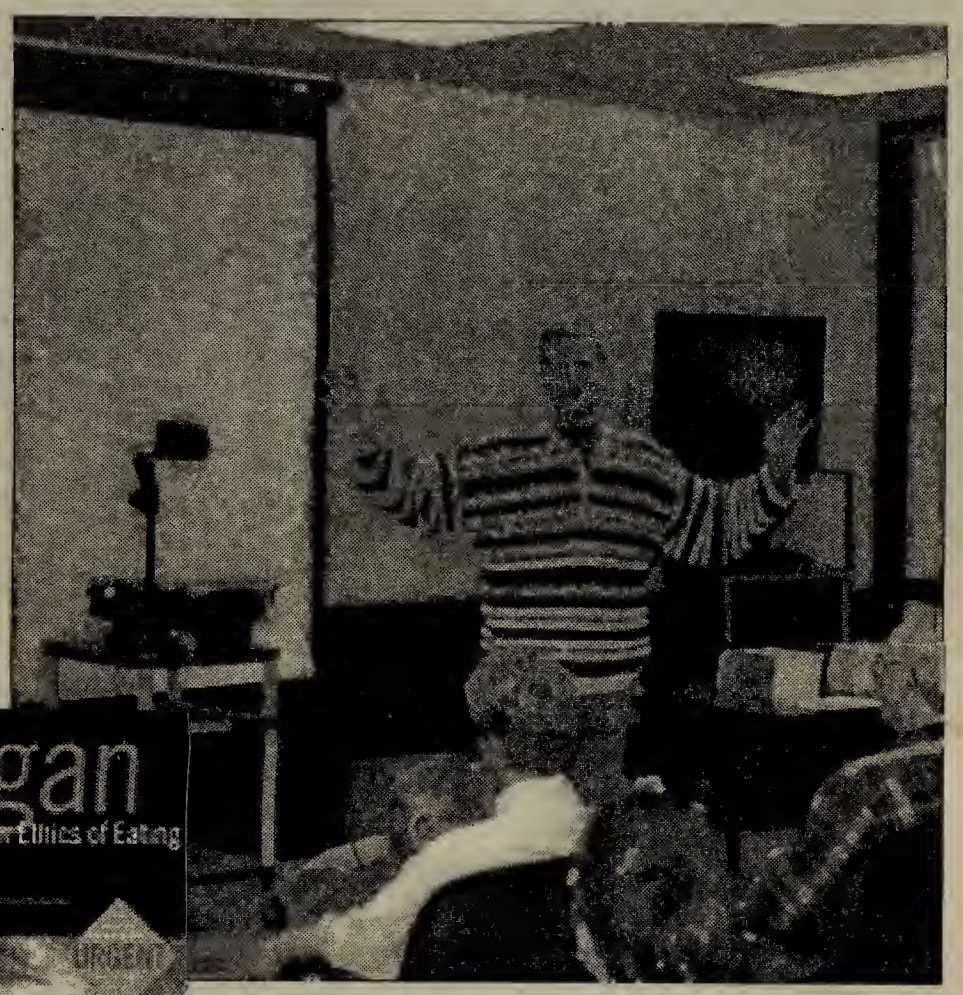


Photo by Amy Aurello

Erik Marcus, a vegan for the past eleven years, and author of "Vegan: The New Ethics of Eating," presented a lecture on April 14 on the benefits of a healthier diet.

Besides saving more lives of animals, the vegetarian diet does boast some impressive health benefits. While on a vegetarian diet, the risk for a heart attack drops from one in two, to one in five. A vegan diet causes an average cholesterol level to fall somewhere between 120 and 140.

His book discusses the ethical, health, and environmental issues in detail. He wrote it after becoming so frustrated with the lack of information on the benefits of a vegetarian, and particularly vegan diet.

> **"Everyone has the right to choose what they eat."**
> Rashon Davis, junior

Although he made the transition to vegetarianism rather easily, within six months, he stressed that it is a process to be taken seriously. He stated that vegetarianism is a learning skill, and it takes some time. But for those who are serious about improving their well-being, "It is almost like riding a bike."

He also offered a few tips for starting a vegetarian diet: visiting natural health food stores, ordering vegetarian meals in restaurants, and reading a vegetarian cookbook.

He asked the audience of about 25 to just spend 15 minutes a day absorbing information, reading books and articles, and the process would eventually lead to second nature.

Sarah Peterson, a sophomore majoring in English and philosophy, who attended the presentation said the talk made her "want to avoid eggs. Each talk pushes me towards veganism." She also recommended the book "Animal Liberation" by Peter Singer.

Even students who aren't vegetarian respect the reasons for being so.

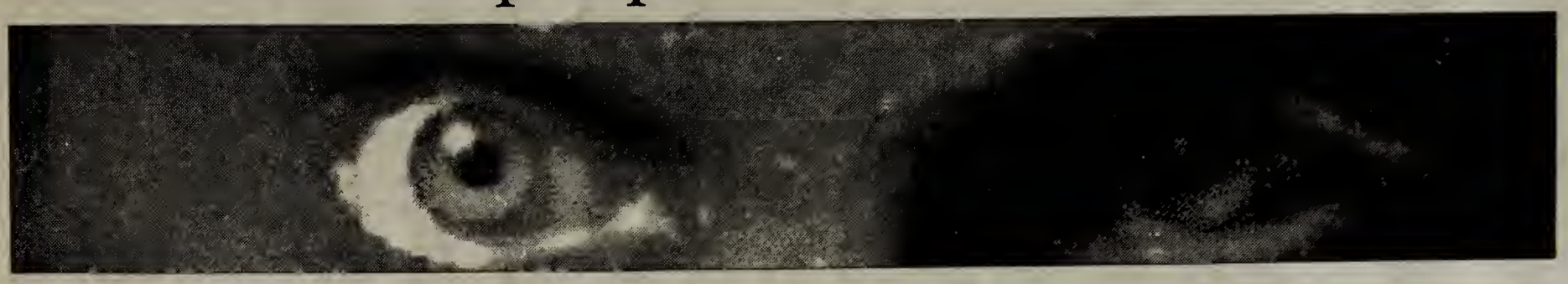
"I respect their beliefs," said senior Veronica Flores, a criminal justice major. However, like many others, she worries about the sometimes graphic nature of extremist protesting, such as throwing cows' blood. Besides, she said, "Everything's contaminated, even vegetables. Everything's bad for you, in some way it is."

They are "very healthy people," said junior Rashon Davis. When asked why he wasn't a vegetarian himself, he said blatantly, "I love meat."

"Everyone has the right to choose what they eat," he added.

For more information on vegetarianism or veganism, contact Students of Compassion in SFLC 324-E. or visit www.vegan.com on the Internet.

Blue Man Group explodes with bizarre creativity



JAMES M. ROTZ
Special to the Chronicle

Visualize a preschool class on stage. Then remember the joy of being a child finger-painting or playing in the mud or simply creating as much chaos as possible. Next add in a fully functioning, intelligent adult with a bachelor's degree and no societal mores restraining the imagination.

This is just part of the formula that is behind the madness of the conceptual/performance theater of Blue Man Group, brainchild of Matt Goldman, Phil Stanton, and Chris Wink. The trio began the Blue Man Group in the streets of New York City and quickly started performing to sell-out crowds first in New York City, then Boston, and now Chicago. With the show's tremendous popularity in all three cities, the original trio of Blue Men have stepped down and allowed rotating 5-7 member troupes to take over the performance duties in each city.

Blue Man has now invaded the Briar Street Theatre and has converted it into a showcase for the Blue Man's wild imagination. Passing through the lobby, audience members are immediately brought into the world of the Blue Man. The lobby is infested with tubes, wires, paint, and gadgets of all sorts. It is an otherworldly sight comparable to scenery from "Star Trek" or "Aliens." The lobby feels as if it has sprung to life with its PVC pipe tentacles protruding from the wall and weaving among many other appendages.

As a trio of bald cobalt painted and clad men take the stage, the audience meets the madness behind the mayhem of the lobby and the act. Simultaneously, as the trio begins, the audience is greeted by haunting music played by a three-piece band on a stage overhead the main one. The band members are each clad in a skeleton suit that glows under the black lights of the theatre.

The Blue Man Group is more than just a barrage on the senses. It is also a farce of today's society.

Blue Man soon begins soiling the audience with more debris than any stand up performance by Gallagher. "Regurgitated" Twinkies, smashed bananas, Cap'n Crunch, and whatever else the trio can reach is in one way or another spewed onto the audience suited in raincoats provided by the theatre. One lucky member of the audience is lucky enough to have his head encased in a Jell-O mold.

The Blue Man Group is more than just a barrage of the senses. The Blue Man is also a farce of today's society. In their own non-sensical manner, Blue Man criticizes science and art. In one instance, the trio has a philosophical discussion with LED signboards concerning the aesthetics and artistic value of a stuffed fish. In another instance, the Blue Man molds a sculpture from partially chewed marshmallows and then marks it $4000 as a comment on the present art scene.

While not the most serious of performance artists, Blue Man Group is a highly entertaining show that overloads the senses. With a rotating troupe of five members, Blue Man is sure to maintain its energy and originality. Each member brings an individual identity to the character that revitalizes the part each performance. Blue Man Group's run in Chicago is sure to continue for a few more years without the originality of the act running dry.

Blue Man Group plays in an open run at Briar Street Theatre located at 3133 North Halsted Street.Tickets are $39 and $46. For information call the Briar Street Theatre at (773) 348-4000 or visit the website at http://www.blueman.com.

Horoscopes

For the week of May 3

Aries (March 21-April 19).
You're wildly enthusiastic Monday and Tuesday, but take care. You could go over budget quite easily. Wednesday and Thursday, the action is intense, and good common sense is required. Friday and Saturday, friends will assist, if you let them know what to do. Nurture your loved ones on Sunday.

Taurus (April 20-May 20).
You can find the money to act on your dreams on Monday and Tuesday. Travel for business on Wednesday and Thursday. Share your experience Friday and Saturday, and relax with good music on Sunday.

Gemini (May 21-June 21).
Follow strong leadership on Monday and Tuesday to achieve what you want. Wednesday and Thursday are best for making practical decisions, or taking out a loan. Friday and Saturday, travel beckons, but may be hard to achieve. On Sunday, you could win the prize.

Cancer (June 22-July 22).
Monday is good for increasing your income, and Tuesday's not too bad either. Company's coming on Wednesday and Thursday. You may not recognize the place after then. Friends help you re-establish order on Friday. Make a wise choice on Saturday. Travel by water on Sunday.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22).
You're enthusiastic Monday and Tuesday, but take care to stay on course, too. Be alert at work on Wednesday and Thursday. Set up a new routine on Friday, and pay your respects to the elderly Saturday. Sunday's your best day for shopping.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).
Invest in your own home on Monday and Tuesday. Fall in love for keeps on Wednesday and Thursday. Fix whatever's broken on Friday and Saturday, and make time for some cuddling on Sunday.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).
Learn from a strong leader on Monday and Tuesday. Flush out what's not working on Wednesday and Thursday. Put your money where your love is on Friday and Saturday, and do creative work on Sunday.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).
You may get a raise on Monday or Tuesday. Learn through experience on Wednesday and Thursday. Invest in a timesaver Friday and Saturday, and follow your hunches on Sunday.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).
Beat the odds and win out on Monday and Tuesday. Go for the money on Wednesday and Thursday, because your effort may pay off bigtime. Make some important changes on Friday and Saturday, although the process may be painful. Tend to your wounds on Sunday.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).
Make big changes at home on Monday and Tuesday, so you can entertain loved ones on Wednesday and Thursday. Spend money wisely on Friday and Saturday. Be careful of your budget. Find your spiritual center and learn through your faith on Sunday.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).
Teamwork is required on Monday and Tuesday. Make a big choice on Tuesday and Wednesday. Pick one you can live with on Thursday. Settle into a new routine on Friday. Do what you love on Saturday. Money will come on Sunday.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20).
You're lucky with money on Monday and Tuesday, but don't spend it all on Wednesday and Thursday. Remember that you should work with a budget. Move quickly to avoid a major trap on Friday. Be cautious about who you meet. Save big purchases for Saturday or Sunday. Your intuition is better then.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week ...

Born May 3: This is a good year to put down roots. A shrewd investment could lead to a solid foundation.

May 4: Schedule your dream vacation in May so you'll have something worth saving for.

May 5: You're usually a workaholic, but this year you might decide to have a little fun.

May 6: Your good common sense could lead you to a promotion this year.

May 7: You could advance in your career this year, but there is going to be a test.

May 8: There's a wall to your advancement this year, but you can blast right through, if you're willing to work hard.

May 9: Friends help you achieve your career goals this year.

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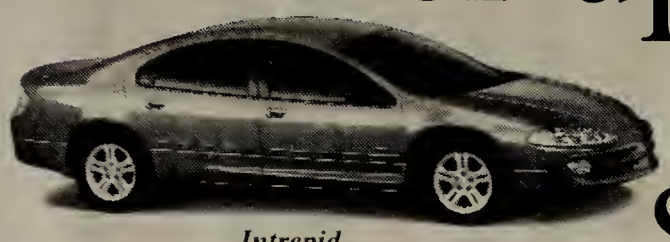

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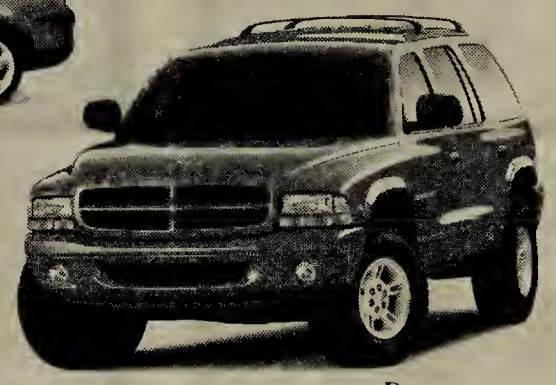

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